

Amendments to the Claims

The current listing of the claims replaces all previous amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A structure ~~for fastening a second material to a first material by a tapping screw having a male thread, the comprising:~~

~~a first material comprising: a plate having a thickness of 1 millimeter or less, the plate having top and bottom surfaces, the top and bottom surfaces defining a hole with a surface in which a female thread is formed as the tapping screw is screwed in; to be threaded therebetween and defining a concave portion around and a convex portion surrounding the hole and having diameters larger than the hole, the concave portion defined in the top surface, and the convex portion defined in the bottom surface;~~

~~a second material contacting the top surface of the first material such that a hole defined in the second material is aligned with the hole, the concave portion, and the convex portion in the first material; and~~

~~a tapping screw disposed through the holes, the concave portion, and the convex portion in the first and second materials to connect the first and second materials, a threaded portion of the tapping screw cooperating with a threaded surface of the first material that is tapped with the tapping screw, and a head of the tapping screw contacting the second material.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The structure according to claim 1, wherein [a] ~~the~~ diameter of a bottom of the concave portion is larger ~~by 0.1 millimeter to 0.5 millimeter~~ than an outer diameter of the tapping screw.

3. (Currently Amended) The structure according to claim 1, wherein a depth of the concave portion is ~~from~~ 1/4 to 1/2 of a thickness of the first material in the concave portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the concave portion ~~is trapezoid in~~ comprises a trapezoidal shape, and [[a]] ~~the diameter of a bottom of a portion of the concave portion adjacent the top surface is smaller~~ greater than [[a]] ~~the diameter of a top thereof~~ a portion of the concave portion adjacent the bottom surface.

5.-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A method of forming a structure, comprising:
forming in a first material a through hole and a concave portion on a top surface of the first material;

contacting a second material with the top surface of the first material such that a through hole defined in the second material is aligned with the through hole and the concave portion in the first material; and

connecting the first and second materials by disposing a tapping screw through the concave portion and the through holes of the first and second materials such that a head of the tapping screw contacts the second material.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the concave portion is formed by half blanking.

11. (New) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
tapping with a threaded portion of the tapping screw a surface of the first material that defines the hole.

12. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the concave portion is formed surrounding the through hole in the first material.